



JANUARY THEME

WORK IT OUT

Stick to the Plan

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 16:13-20

Who Are You? | Who do you say that I am?

BOTTOM LINE

Practice talking about God

MEMORY VERSE

“Training the body has some value.
But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.”
1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

LIFE APP

Commitment | Making a plan and putting it into practice

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **COMMITMENT** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

Key Question: Who can you talk with about God? Talking about what God is doing in your life is an important part of growing in faith. But we don’t always know the best person to talk to about our faith. We hope kids and their families figure out the trusted people who can be a sounding board to listen to their faith stories.

In **Matthew 16:13-20**, Jesus asks his disciples about who people think he is. Then, Jesus turns the question on them. After everything they’d seen Jesus do and heard Jesus say, who did they think he was? This gave Peter the perfect moment for him to declare what he believed about Jesus—that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God. We can know God better by talking about God with others. But this isn’t just about talking about Jesus with people who don’t know him yet. There’s also another important element of talking about God. As kids process their growing faith, they will have questions and doubts. We want families to practice the faith skill, TALK, and learn how to talk through their questions about God with others who believe in Jesus.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the opportunity you have to talk about God’s story with the kids in your group. Pray that you’ll be able to encourage the kids to talk to others about God even when it might seem scary or awkward for them.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- As kids arrive, ask:
 - Name someone you consider to be a good friend. What makes them a good friend?
 - What are some things you know about them?
 - Describe your mom or dad (or grandparents/guardian). What do they look like? What do they love (what’s their favorite)? What do they NOT love (what’s not their favorite)?



●● **GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to take turns telling the group something about themselves.
- Challenge them to share one thing for each letter in their first name. (For example, Linda would try to share 5 things, Tim would try to share 3.)

What You Say: “After this little exercise, you learned a few more things about one another. We can learn a lot about God from God’s Word too! [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll find out/we found out why it’s important for us to know all we can about God.**”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

●● **WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bibles, “Word Bubble Comic Strips” activity pages, markers

What You Do:

- Place kids in groups of two or three with a Bible and help them find Matthew 16:13-20 in the New Testament.
- Pass out the “Word Bubble Comic Strips” Activity Pages and markers.
- Encourage the kids to read Matthew 16:13-20 aloud in their groups.
- Instruct them to draw a word bubble over the character in each section of the comic strip.
- Inside the word bubbles in the first three comic book sections, kids should write in the names of Jesus that the disciples listed. (*John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or other prophets*)
- Discuss how those men were prophets—men who spoke for God—but those answers were incorrect.
- Encourage the kids to write in Peter’s answer: “The Son of God” or “Messiah” in the last section of the comic strip.

What You Say: “The people who met Jesus weren’t always sure who he was. Some thought he was just a prophet. Some thought he was a gifted teacher who knew the Scriptures better than anyone. Some thought he was a healer who could perform amazing miracles. All of these things are true. Jesus WAS a prophet who spoke for God. He was a gifted teacher and a healer. But he was more than that. Jesus came so that we could know God. Jesus came to be our Savior! He came to show us how much God loves us and teach us how to love others. Peter knew who Jesus was, and you and I do too! We need to be ready to tell others about Jesus, God’s only Son, and to tell them about God, who gave Jesus to us! We need to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**”

[Make It Personal] *(Tell the kids about a time when you told someone else about Jesus or you invited them with you to church. What happened? Would you say that it gets easier as you practice talking to others about God? Why or why not?)*



●● **WHAT'S YOUR NAME?** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Blank nametags, markers

What You Do:

- Pass out a nametag and a marker to each kid.
- Pair kids up. Without letting their neighbor see what they're writing, instruct the kids to write, "Jesus is _____," and fill in the blank on their nametags.
- When they're finished writing, instruct kids to place their completed nametag on their partner's back, being careful not to let their partner see what it says.
- Let the kids mingle and find a new partner.
- The new partners will look at each other's nametags and then give clues to help each other figure out what is written on their nametags.
- Make sure to mingle among the kids and help with clue giving where needed.
- Tell the kids that when both partners have identified their nametags, they should have a seat.
- Once all kids are seated, have the kids stick their nametags on the front of their shirts (*partners may need to help with this*).
- Encourage the kids to keep their nametags and challenge them to tell ONE person something about God.

What You Say: "When it comes to talking about God, it takes practice. Jesus is our SAVIOR! Jesus came to be our Messiah and Jesus showed us how much God loves us. Jesus also taught us how to love others. That is GOOD news that everyone needs to hear. You can always pray and ask God to help you know what to say as you talk to your friends and family about God. And each time you do, you'll see that it becomes easier and easier. Let's make a commitment together to share what we've written on our nametags with someone else this week and to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**"

●● **MEMORY VERSE SWITCH** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bibles, a ball-pit ball

What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to look up and read this month's memory verse: 1 Timothy 4:8.
- Gather the kids in a circle and say the verse together as a group.
- Instruct the kids to pass the ball around the circle as they say the verse, one word at a time. Your job is to help them with the next word if they get stuck.
- Once they've recited the verse a couple of times, yell, "SWITCH," in the middle of the verse.
- When that happens, the kids must reverse the direction of the ball.
- Continue reciting the verse and calling "SWITCH" randomly as time and interest allow.

What You Say: "Great job! You had to really listen and pay attention so you could keep up with the direction of the ball and the next word of the verse. Training the body is important, but growing in our faith is SUPER important. One of the ways we grow is by telling others what we know about God. We don't have to know EVERYTHING. In fact, it's impossible to know everything about God. But we can make a commitment to tell others what we DO know. We know God loves us, God made us, God sent Jesus to be our Savior, and God wants to have a relationship with us forever. And there are people around you—in your neighborhood, at school, on your ball teams, in your ballet class, maybe even in your own family—that need to hear about God, too. So let's make a promise this week to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**"



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

JANUARY
21/24
2018

GRADE 2-3
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Nametags from the “What’s Your Name?” activity

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to look at their nametags and think of one person they want to share this GOOD news with this week.
- Give them some time to pray on their own that they would make a commitment to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God** this week.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say: “Dear God, thank you so much for every single kid in this group. Thank you for all the things we’ve learned about you. Thank you for loving us and for sending Jesus so we could have a relationship with you. We want to tell others about you, so give us the courage to do that this week! We commit to letting others know how awesome you are. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

Point out the nametag on each child as they are picked up. Explain to parents that this week you challenged them to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God**.

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday leaders, pass out **Parent Cue** cards to any adult who has not yet received one this month.